

ARIZONA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Request for Council Action

**Date Action
Requested:**

October 22, 2020

**Type of Action
Requested:**

☒ Formal Action/Request
☐ Information Only
☐ Other

Subject:

Expansion of Two-
Factor Authentication
Statewide

FROM:

Vice Chief Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer, COT Chair
Mr. Karl Heckart, AOC ITD Director, CIO

DISCUSSION:

Vice Chief Justice Timmer, COT's chair, and Mr. Karl Heckart, CIO for the Courts, will brief members on a recommendation made by COT members to expand two-factor authentication from only those meeting specific criteria to all court employees statewide by July 1, 2021.

In June 2019, the Arizona Judicial Council directed the addition of a second factor into the login process (2FA) to protect against unauthorized account takeovers and business e-mail compromise for court employees who:

- held elevated credentials,
- had direct access to sensitive information (in the determination of local court leadership), and
- were court leaders having policy setting or decision-making ability.

COT's Cybersecurity Subcommittee reviewed the enrollment percentages by county and in consideration of the heightened risks brought on by COVID-19 responses (11 government entities caught by ransomware/data extortion since March 1) recommended further expansion of 2FA.

Following extensive discussion weighing the risks against the inconvenience, COT voted unanimously to immediately require 2FA for judges, court administrators and deputies, as well as elected clerks and deputies. The motion also recommended to AJC that 2FA be expanded to all court employees statewide effective July 1, 2021. The extended implementation timeline was intended to reduce the disruption to court activities during the work-from-home period.

Before making the 2FA expansion proposal, Karl Heckart will describe some approaches that reduce the inconvenience and disruption of 2FA for courtroom activities along with a direction for increasing courts' overall level of protection over time leading up to the July 1, 2021 deadline recommended by COT.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

In consideration of the increased risk of attack brought by trusting non-court devices on home networks since the Council approved use of 2FA as well as the presence of approaches to reduce the inconvenience of 2FA over time, approve COT's recommendation to require 2FA for access to court resources by every court employee effective July 1, 2021. Any device accessing court resources must be queried for the second factor and must be reverified every 30 days, as was previously directed by AJC.